

than later in his career. The examiners should be independent persons, engaged in general teaching and there should be at least three or four. No one man can conduct a preliminary examination with entire satisfaction. The organization of the board of matriculation examiners in Quebec should serve as a model for all the other provinces. It was a decidedly retrograde step when the medical council of this province relegated the entrance examination to other hands. And the acceptance of the intermediate High School certificate is not without its disadvantages. Throughout Canada the subjects for matriculation have always closely followed those recommended by the British Medical Council, and embrace the elements of a good general education, with a fair amount of Latin. To these special subjects have lately been added Natural Philosophy, Chemistry and Botany (optional). The student has had in the past several difficulties to contend with which should be removed. He has had to pass in some cases two examinations: one before the board of his province, and the other before the university at which he wishes to take his degree. Now the matriculation examination of the boards should be placed on such a level, and conducted in such a way, that any university could consistently accept it in lieu of its own, and if it was universally recognized by the profession, by teachers of high schools, and by the candidates, that there was but one portal of admission to the study of medicine, and that through the medical board by means of its authorized examiners, a great deal of trouble and annoyance would be prevented. Again, in the interests of the student, the greatest care should be exercised in the selection by the examiners of subjects which the candidates will find taught in the advanced classes of the high schools. Similar books to those read for other matriculations should as far as possible be chosen.

2. The regulation of the curriculum. The general profession, through its delegates, has an incontrovertible right to regulate and frame the curriculum of study which men shall follow who aspire to join its ranks. The governments allow this right and have empowered the Boards to frame such measures as they see fit. In the exercise of this function there has been a little friction in the past, and in no one of their duties will the Boards of the various provinces require to proceed with

greater circumspection in the future. That there has been a good deal of tinkering, and not always of a satisfactory kind, is a complaint frequently made by schoolmen. That there has been very little and that the results have not been bad, will, I think, be the verdict of any one who looks into the matter fully. The curriculum is at present in a transition stage, and we must expect in the next few years to see important changes, but into these I do not propose to go in detail. One thing is clear, that the Boards and the teaching bodies must act in concert—in the interest of the student and of the profession harmonious action must be arranged. In this country the students of all classes seek the degree as well as the license and are not, as the majority are in Great Britain, satisfied with the latter. Hence the imperative need of a certain uniformity in the requirements of the boards of the universities. The teachers cannot possibly arrange the instruction on diverse plans. The duty of the Board is to lay down a minimum curriculum to which every student shall conform, and which the schools can easily carry out. The university requirements, while as much higher as the authorities choose to exact, should be laid down in the same lines, so that a student could easily proceed in his studies for the one or the other without inconvenience, and the teachers prepare a man for either examination without needless repetitions.

Among important questions which await settlement in some of the Provinces are the strict enforcement of the four years of study and the advisability of prolonging the session to nine months, or, what amounts to the same thing, making the summer session compulsory. The plan of allowing a student to pass one of his four years of study with a physician should be done away with at as early a date as possible. For two reasons: in the first place, it is, in a majority of instances, a farce, and we find on enquiry that the student has been pursuing his usual avocation, and perhaps going to a doctor's office in the evening: it is certainly not the equivalent of a session at college. If allowed at all, it should not be the first year, but the third, as permitted in the province of Quebec, for then a student is in a position to obtain really valuable instruction in practical medicine and surgery from his preceptor. I was surprised a few years ago, on obtaining the statistics from the registrar of one